

Panama Canal Regulations

§ 111.38

of high intensity intermittent or revolving lights, such as strobe lights, shall be avoided.

(b) Under no circumstances shall the rays of a searchlight or any other type of blinding light be directed into the pilot house, or in any other manner or direction which would interfere with the navigation of another vessel.

§ 111.37 Distress signals (Rule 37).

(a) Need of assistance. The following signals used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:

(1) A gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute;

(2) A continuous sounding with any fog-signaling apparatus;

(3) Rockets or shells, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;

(4) A signal made by radiotelegraphy or by any other signaling method consisting of the group . . . --- . . . (SOS) in the Morse Code;

(5) A signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word "may-day";

(6) The International Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.;

(7) A signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;

(8) Flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);

(9) A rocket parachute flare or a hand flare showing a red light;

(10) A smoke signal giving off orange-colored smoke;

(11) Slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side;

(12) The radiotelegraph alarm signal;

(13) The radiotelephone alarm signal;

(14) Signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons.

(b) The use of exhibition of any of the foregoing signals except for the purpose of indicating distress and need of assistance and the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the above signals is prohibited.

(c) Attention is drawn to the relevant sections of the International Code of Signals, the Merchant Ship Search and

Rescue Manual and the following signals:

(1) A piece of orange-colored canvas with either a black square and circle or other appropriate symbol (for identification from the air);

(2) A dye marker.

[48 FR 52704, Nov. 22, 1983; 49 FR 1184, Jan. 10, 1984]

Subpart E—Miscellaneous

§ 111.38 Diving operations (Rule 38).

(a) When industrial or commercial diving operations are being conducted in the Canal, or waters adjacent thereto, a revolving red light shall be displayed in all weathers from sunset to sunrise from the diving barge or other craft serving the diver. The light shall be so mounted and of sufficient intensity as to be visible for not less than 1 mile. The International Code Flag "A", not less than 18 inches in height and of standard proportions, shall be displayed from such craft by day where it may best be seen. A rigid replica of this flag may be substituted in lieu thereof.

(b) Recreational skin diving in waters of the Canal, including Gaillard Cut and the channel through Gatun and Miraflores Lakes and in the waters of all ships' anchorages, is prohibited unless authorized in writing by the Marine Director or his designee. Authorization shall not be given for skin diving at night. When recreational skin diving activities are under way in the Canal, or waters adjacent thereto, a flag of the type described in paragraph (a) of this section shall be displayed from the craft serving the skin diver in a manner which allows all-round visibility; however, the flag displayed for recreational diving shall be not less than 12 inches in height and of the standard proportions.

(c) Vessels approaching or passing an area where diving activities are under way shall reduce speed sufficiently to avoid creating a dangerous wash or wake.

[49 FR 30466, July 31, 1984, as amended at 55 FR 11909, Mar. 30, 1990]